

March 4, 1958

## HANNA MEMORIAL EXHIBITION TO CELEBRATE MUSEUM OPENING

The collection of Leonard C. Hanna, Jr. will be featured when The Cleveland Museum of Art opens its \$9,000,000 new wing on March 5. The exhibit contains Hanna's entire private collection bequeathed to the Museum upon his death in October, and will be displayed in the Special Exhibition Galleries of the new addition.

French paintings of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries comprise a large part of the collection giving The Cleveland Museum of Art a first rank collection of French paintings from 1850 to 1920. Altogether there are 35 paintings representing such masters as Degas, Courbet, Daumier, Toulouse-Lautrec, Cezanne, Van Gogh, Manet, Renoir, Picasso, Redon, Seurat, Matisse, Mondrian. Other paintings include an early oil by Winslow Homer and the large 'Morning Glory with Black' by Georgia O'Keefe.

Two great monuments of French Gothic sculpture - mourners from the tomb of Philip the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, come to the Museum under Hanna's bequest. These figures join the two figures already in the Museum's collection - one from this same tomb and one from the tomb of John the Fearless.

In addition the Hanna Collection includes very select prints and drawings, a few early Ordos bronzes, a rare early Chinese bronze, a classical gem of outstanding quality, other sculptures and decorative objects.

After the exhibition closes on April 6 the objects will be displayed in their proper sequence throughout the Museum, in accordance with Hanna's expressed wish.

This collection, however, represents only a fraction of the donor's great generosity. Upon his death he also endowed the Museum with \$20,000,000, certainly one of the largest bequests ever left to any Museum in the world. This magnificent gift will be of enduring benefit to the people of Cleveland. One half of the income from this endowment will be used for operation of the Museum, the other half for purchases of art.

'For the purpose of promoting the welfare of Mankind', Leonard Hanna, Jr. established the Hanna Fund in 1941. It has consistently benefited the Museum since that time.

Purchases made through Hanna Fund include many of the Museum's choicest pieces from all cultures and periods in art. Through the years, in addition to Hanna Fund, Hanna personally presented many objects of great value to the Museum. At the opening, these gifts will be displayed in the galleries in which they historically belong. Photographs of the most important Hanna Fund gifts will be exhibited in one section of the Special Exhibition Galleries. A complete and well illustrated catalogue, listing all Hanna gifts, will be available at the new Sales Desk of the Museum.

It was Hanna who largely made the new wing possible. He was one of the first to realize the Museum's crucial need for more space. Through Hanna Fund he contributed \$2,101,500 outright and another \$2,000,000 with the proviso that it be matched dollar by dollar by public subscription. The challenge was quickly met by Cleveland's many civic-minded citizens. His untimely death prevented his seeing the realization of his great dream.

Hanna became a member of the Advisory Council in the Museum in 1914, one year after the Museum was incorporated. His first gifts go back to 1916 when the Museum opened. In 1920 he became a Trustee and a member of the Accessions Committee.

Although his personal taste was excellent, Hanna was never dictatorial. He always left final decisions to the Museum's curators. Museum Director William M. Milliken comments, 'It is a rare and fascinating episode in the story of American collecting, a far seeing donor thinking in this basic way of the needs of the institution he wished to serve and never forcing his personal judgment.'